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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Del Monte Annual Session of 1939.—Once again, the members of the California Medical Association have held an annual session, the sixty-eighth, replete with many gatherings and conferences on scientific and organization problems of more than usual importance. When one is called on to provide all the immediate and accessory needs for the various meetings of an annual session, the many activities of the working units in the State Association make a special impression. This, however, need not be a matter of surprise, since the California Medical Association has more than six thousand members; and also because, at its annual conventions, the medical work requires detailed provision for twelve well organized scientific sections, and also for activities depicted by the scientific exhibits presented by individual members. Related work of affiliated groups was portrayed at three well attended microscopic and x-ray conferences held on the Sunday preceding the session proper, under the auspices of the Cancer Commission. Of value also were the clinical conferences under the lead of the California Heart Association. And not to be forgotten are the technical or commercial exhibits.

In addition to the above expressions of scientific medicine, and of equal interest and importance, were those relating to organized medicine, as manifested in the meetings of the House of Delegates and Council, with the practically all-day sessions of its reference committees, before whom members appeared to discuss questions of policy. Of equal allure were the general meetings at which guest speakers and officers of the Association brought affairs of pertinent interest to the attention of the entire membership.

In surveying the proceedings of the last Del Monte session, therefore, it may be said that recent years, marked as they have been in medical circles by marvelous advances in scientific knowledge, and also by increasing complexity and unrest in economic and social welfare matters, have added increasing responsibilities for California Medical Association members. Our Society, it-

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

self the outward or manifest expression of the organized physicians of the State, brought into being to promote the standards of public health and of medical practice, in these latter years has therefore no other recourse—whether it wishes or not—than to try to solve the problems which a rapidly changing civilization has brought to the fore and thrust upon it.

* * *

Special Features of the Recent Session.—

Laying aside, now, these general reflections on trends in scientific and organized medicine, it may be in order to comment briefly on other phases of the recent annual session. The attendance was the largest ever recorded at Del Monte, and the scientific, organization, and social features all measured up to the best standards of former years. In spite of the hard times, the technical or commercial exhibits brought in the largest financial return yet registered for the Association. The dinner to Retiring President Roblee was marked by a peak attendance in the Hotel Del Monte dining room, with almost nine hundred places occupied. The Woman's Auxiliary, also, held its well attended meetings at the beautiful Del Monte Lodge. Everywhere, in fact, expression was given concerning the value of the 1939 session; and to all who lent aid in the arrangements, thanks are again tendered. The official proceedings may be gleaned by a perusal of the minutes of the House of Delegates and Council.*

* * *

Good Wishes to Newly Elected Officers.—

To the newly elected officers, greetings and best wishes for successful terms are extended by the members of the Association.

Dr. Harry H. Wilson of Los Angeles is the recipient of the great honor, that of being President-Elect of the California Medical Association, his career of service to scientific and organized medicine already covering many years of loyal and efficient endeavor in movements designed to advance the profession's best interests. His broad general training will make him a valuable executive in times such as the present; and, with other officers who were elected, he may be assured of everyone's whole-hearted support.

At the close of the Wednesday evening meeting of the House of Delegates, Dr. William W. Roblee of Riverside laid aside the responsibilities of the presidential office to welcome as his successor his 1895 classmate of Cooper Medical College, Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland. To Doctor Dukes, also, is given the pledge of generous coöperation in the arduous work ahead.

Medicine in California may be faced, in days to come, with many serious problems; but with just causes, clear thinking, loyal support and keen leadership, it need have little fear concerning the future, remembering, however, that at the present time, as never before, a generous and united support is necessary for the successful advancement and attainment of policies decided upon.

* See pages 427 and 440.

PROPOSED COMPULSORY HEALTH LAW FOR CALIFORNIA: A. B. 2172

A. B. 2172 Fails of Passage in the Assembly: However, a Special Election Is in the Offing.—

Press dispatches, of which several are given space in this issue,* indicate that Assembly Bill 2172, providing for a compulsory, capitation health insurance statute, will fail of passage in the present Legislature, which body may adjourn before this June issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL is placed in the mails. For such a nonenactment, members of the medical profession in California may heave a sigh of relief, temporary though that ease may be. For, if the prognostications of the leaders among the proponents of such legislation may be accepted, it is more than probable that a compulsory health bill will be on the state election ballot of November, 1940, as an initiative measure.

If Governor Olson calls a special election within the next several months (and, it is reported, he so intends, to permit citizens to again vote on the "\$30 every Thursday" initiative), and if he includes in that call a compulsory health insurance law, it will then be necessary for the physicians of California to gird themselves for immediate battle on the issue.

* * *

Attitude of the Press.—The seriousness of the problem is one of the reasons so much space has been given for "Press Clippings" in recent numbers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE; since it must be evident that, in a battle against a law that would have such a devastating effect upon medical practice and public health standards, it is most important that every member of the California Medical Association should have had the opportunity to acquaint himself as fully as possible not only with the major facts and principles involved, but also with the attitude of fellow citizens as reflected in the daily newspapers. The press dispatches in the present issue are of a hopeful nature, so far as immediate legislative action is concerned; but they also mention the imminence of the forthcoming initiative struggle which will call for united and whole-hearted action, both individual and collective, and this to be given without stint. There will be required, in addition, the expenditure of considerable sums to provide the educational literature at once needed in such a campaign. If, therefore, Governor Olson includes compulsory health legislation in the special session he has stated he would convene, members of the California Medical Association may expect to be called upon for an expression of strenuous civic activity such as they have never yet been requested to give.

* * *

Recent Article by Mr. Chester Rowell.—

Attention has been directed to the "press clipping" pages, in part because comments will here be made concerning Editor Chester Rowell's syndicated article of May 20, which has been given place, on page 454.

* See page 454.